

ASSIST Technical Guide

Completing and Submitting Program Review Reports

For Kentucky Schools and Districts

About This Guide

This guide has been developed specifically for Kentucky schools and districts. It provides an overview of ASSIST and step-by-step instructions for completing and submitting Program Review Reports in ASSIST.

ASSIST is designed to guide and streamline the improvement planning process and help eliminate duplication of effort!

Learn more at: www.advanc-ed.org/kde

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Exhibit A: School Executive Summary Content

Exhibit B: School System Executive Summary Content

ASSIST® Overview

Through partnership, AdvancED and the Kentucky Department of Education, have customized The Adaptive System of School Improvement Support Tools (ASSIST®) to guide and support a common, statewide improvement planning process for all Kentucky Schools and Districts.

The many disparate requirements, duties, and functions of effective accountability, accreditation and compliance are brought together into a single, seamless tool that facilitates progressive thinking and dialogue about school quality. The system is packaged as a user-friendly online resource that collects and integrates a broad array of data for institutions to gain a better understanding of their past successes and opportunities, and confidently build a solid, research-based improvement initiative for the future.

ASSIST is designed as a continuous improvement tool! In the coming months you will hear more about how ASSIST will help eliminate duplication and streamline the reporting process.

ASSIST Basics

- ASSIST was the tool used to submit Program Reviews in the Spring of 2012 and all KY schools and districts now have access.
- ASSIST is a fully web-based system that does not have any specific network or system requirements. We recommend using the most recent versions of the following internet browsers for the best user experience: Mozilla Firefox, Apple Safari, Internet Explorer, or Google Chrome.
- If your institution is required to submit a report in ASSIST, a task will be set and the Head of Institution (Principal, Superintendent, etc.) and the Primary Contact listed in ASSIST will receive an email notification.

ASSIST Terminology

ASSIST (Adaptive System of School Improvement Support Tools)

A web-based school improvement platform used by schools, districts, and ISDs/ESAs around the world to facilitate improvement planning and streamline compliance, accountability, and accreditation reporting requirements.

Diagnostics



Tools designed to help schools and districts self-assess strengths and areas in need of improvement related to organizational effectiveness, performance, stakeholder perceptions in order to support ongoing improvement processes and practice.

NOTE: Diagnostics are always available for self-activation in ASSIST. You no longer have to wait for them to be activated.

Assurances



Compliance and/or accountability statements or questions that require a Yes or No certification response. Users will have the ability to upload supporting documentation in ASSIST for each assurance as well as narrative comments.



The requirements assigned to an institution, identifying which reports need to be completed by a specified date. The tasks are requirements that can be defined and assigned by KDE or AdvancED. NOTE: The Head of Institution and Primary Contact listed in the system will receive an email notification when a new ASSIST task has been assigned for their institution.

ASSIST Navigation

The primary navigation of ASSIST takes place using a series of tabs across the top of the screen. Specific tools are provided within each tab. The following diagram provides a basic overview of the ASSIST tabs and what is located within each.

Overview	Profile	Diagnostics &	Assurances	Goals & Plans	Actions &	Portfolio
		Surveys			Reviews	
Due dates for required tasks - upcoming, past due, and completed (NOTE: When you open a task on the Overview Tab it takes you to the task details in the Portfolio Tab) EXAMPLES: CSIP CDIP Program Review Report Accreditation Report Diagnostic Review Report ASSIST Tasks	Basic institution, demographic, affiliation, accreditation, and accountability status information (e.g., Priority, Focus, Title I) Note: Performance section is currently blank	Tools to facilitate the collection and analysis of data and information to inform the improvement planning process School Diagnostics: Executive Summary AdvancED Self Assessment(s) Student Performance Stakeholder Feedback KDE Needs Assessment Improvement Plan Stakeholder Involvement Diagnostic The Missing Piece A&H Program Review PLCS Program Review Writing Program Review K-3 Program Review Surveys:	Yes/No Certification Questions – AdvancED and KDE state and federal assurances Assurances	Build and manage goals and improvement plans Goals	Tools to facilitate a process of checks and balances to ensure appropriate goals and strategies are in place.	Contains task/document submission and review and approval workflow EXAMPLES:
		• Parent • Staff • Middle/High Student (6-12) • Elementary Student (3-5)	ostic			
		• Early Elementary Student (K-2)				

Accessing ASSIST®

1. Login to your school's account at www.advanc-ed.org/kde.

If you cannot locate your login/password, please contact Customer Service: contactus@advanc-ed.org



2. Enter your user name (email address) and personal password.

If you have forgotten your password, click the **Send New Password** link above and follow the instructions for resetting your password.

Login
Please refer you email address and password to log in and have access to the AfrancED order to loss.

Please register to create a new account.

Create New Account

If you don't have an ASSIST account, click the Create
New Account button to create one, keep in mind you will need your

institution's access code

3. Navigate to ASSIST.

Click on the **ASSIST** link

Please use one of the following links to access our tools:

- ASSIST
- Accreditation Management System
- School Improvement Management System (MDE)

4. Verify that you are working in the correct institution



Getting Started

Program Reviews are included as a component of the Unbridled Learning System. In February 2013, each school in Kentucky will be assigned a Program Review Report tasks. Upon logging into ASSIST, you should see an upcoming task listed with a due date of June 1, 2013.

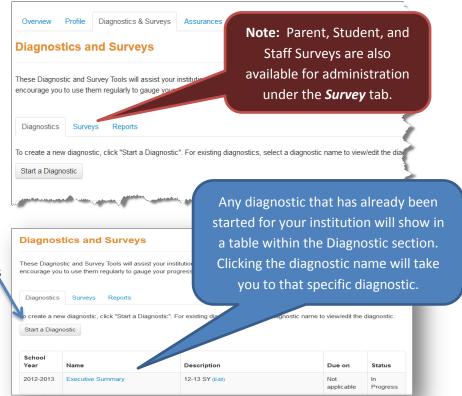


Use the *Diagnostic & Surveys* tab at the top of the screen to navigate to the content that needs to be completed in order to submit the report. Once each component is completed, return to this page to "Add" the completed content to the report and submit.

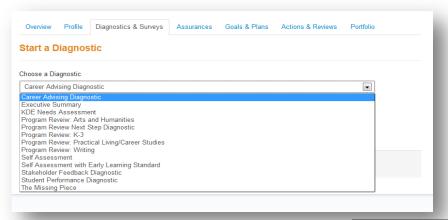
Administering Diagnostics

Click the *Diagnostic & Surveys* tab at the top of the page.

Diagnostics can be self-administered at any time by clicking on the *Start a Diagnostic* button. Schools and school systems/districts are encouraged to use diagnostic tools as part of an ongoing self-assessment process.



Note: The only way to preview a diagnostic is to start it. You can delete the diagnostic if you decide it is not needed.



Upon clicking the *Start a Diagnostic* button, you will be taken to the Start a Diagnostic page where you can select the diagnostic you would like to administer from a drop-down list.

Be sure to provide a brief description that will help to differentiate one diagnostic from another. You may decide to administer multiple diagnostics over time.

Once you have selected a diagnostic and provided a description, click *Start*. All diagnostics are self-administered in the same fashion.

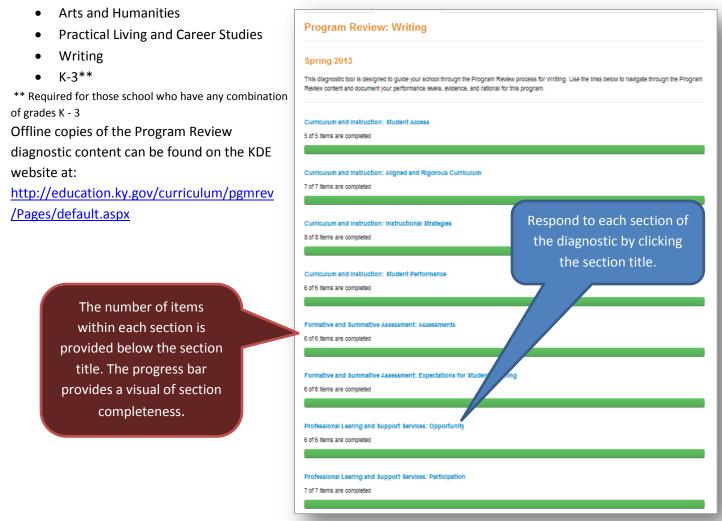
You will notice that there are several additional diagnostic tools available in the drop-down menu. Feel free to explore and use these additional diagnostic tools as part of your ongoing self-assessment and continuous improvement process.



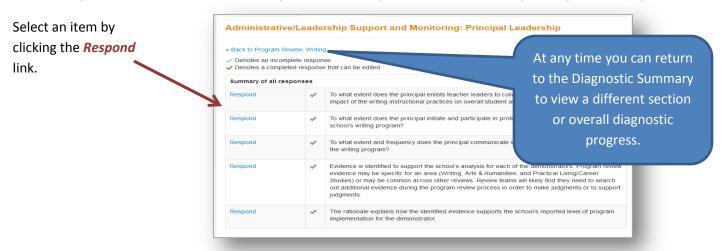
Choose a Diagnostic

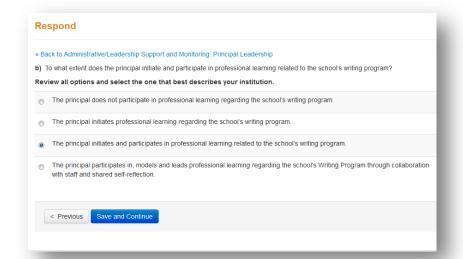
Completing the Program Review Diagnostics

The Program Review diagnostic is a rubric based that can be completed at any time. Each school is required to complete a diagnostic for each of the following program areas:



Upon entering each section, you will see a table that provides the items within each section. Items with a gray checkmark have not yet received a response, whereas those with a green checkmark have. ASSIST does not check for accuracy of information in a narrative response, so it is important to review all responses prior to completion.





Respond to each item by selecting the rubric response that most accurately represents your institution

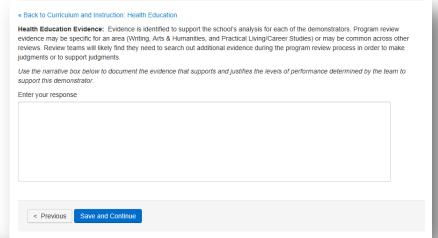
Clicking *Save and Continue* will automatically take you to the next item in the diagnostic.

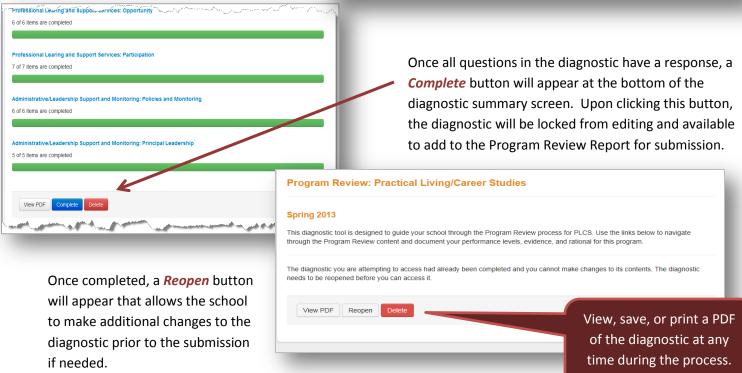
Note: You can return to this screen at any time to change an item response.

The last two questions for each demonstrator are narrative question. The first question is for the evidence for the demonstrator and the second question is for the rationale.

Respond to each item by providing a written narrative in the box provided. You can copy and paste text from a text editor or Microsoft Word document. ASSIST does not support special formatting, images or tables.

Clicking **Save and Continue** will automatically take you to the next item in the diagnostic.





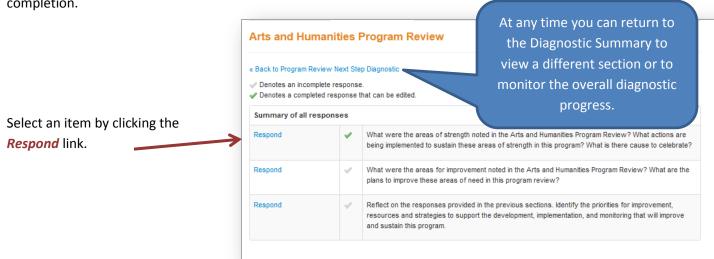
Note: Repeat these steps for each of the Required Program Review Diagnostics

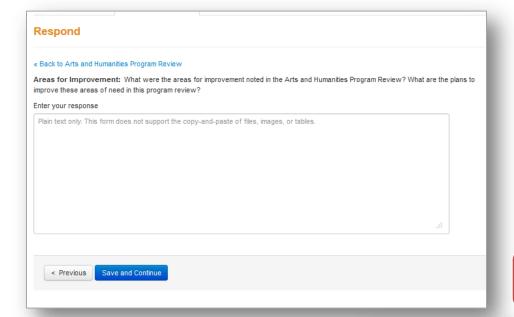
Completing the Program Review Next Steps Diagnostic

The program reviews are intended to guide schools to systematically analyze their comprehensive school programs in the areas of Arts and Humanities, Practical Living/Career Studies, Writing, and the K-3. This final step is to analyze the findings from each program review to determine how the school will make recommendations to improve and sustain each program. This diagnostic is narrative in format and is required to be completed as part of the Program Review Report submission. Exhibit A (attached) contains the Program Review Next Steps Diagnostic Content.

Program Review Next Step Diagnostic Spring 2013 appropriate for the specific section. It is recommended that the responses are written offline and then transferred into the sections below The number of items In-Depth Review 0 of 1 items are completed within each section is Respond to each section of provided below the section the diagnostic by clicking title. The progress bar 0 of 3 items are completed the section title. provides a visual of section Practical Living/Career Studies Program completeness. 0 of 3 items are completed Writing Program Review K-3 Program Review

Upon entering each section, you will see a table that provides the items within each section. Items with a gray checkmark have not yet received a response, whereas those with a green checkmark have. ASSIST does not check for accuracy of information in a narrative response, so it is important to review all responses prior to completion.



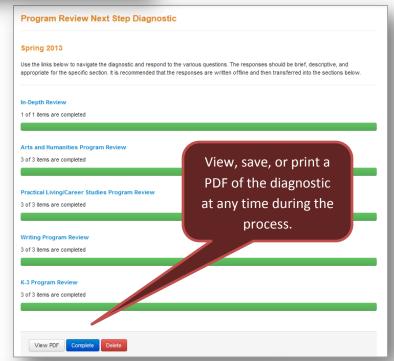


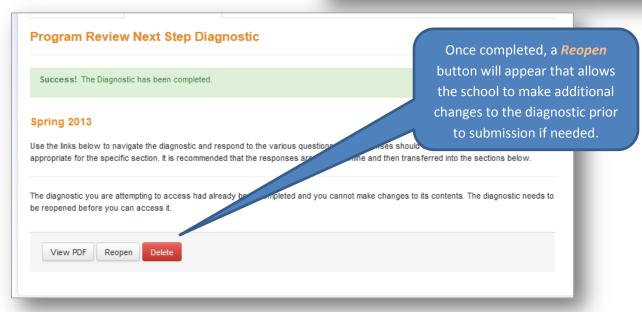
Respond to each item by providing a written narrative in the box. You can copy and paste text from a text editor or Microsoft Word document. ASSIST does not support special formatting, images, or tables.

Clicking *Save and Continue* will automatically take you to the next item in the diagnostic.

Note: You can return to this screen at any time to change an item response.

Once all questions in the diagnostic have a response, a *Complete* button will appear at the bottom of the diagnostic summary screen. Upon clicking this button, the Program Review Next Steps Diagnostic will be locked from editing and available to add to the Program Review Report for submission.





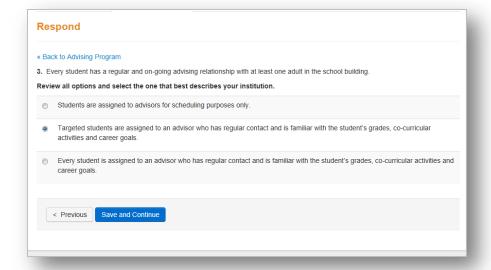
Completing the Career Advising Diagnostic

Kentucky is committed to ensuring that every student reaches proficiency and graduates from high school ready for college and/or career. A strategy for comprehensive college and career advising, connecting students to adults that may advise them on college and career options is integral to reaching this goal. This diagnostic can be used by schools to determine the level of implementation of a Comprehensive College and Career Advising Program and can be used in conjunction with Program Review for Practical Living/Career Studies. This diagnostic is rubric based and it is optional for Program Review Report submission. Exhibit **C** (attached) contains the Career Advising Diagnostic content.

Diagnostics & Surveys Goals & Plans Assurances Actions & Reviews The number of items **Career Advising Diagnostic** within each section is provided below the section Spring 2013 Respond to each section of title. The progress bar The diagnostic is designed to facilitate the process of an inte nentation of the diagnostic by clicking comprehensive college and career advising. Use the links be The diagnostic provides a visual of section can be used as often as needed as a reflective the section title. completeness. **Advising Program** 9 of 9 items are completed View PDF

Upon entering each section, you will see a table that provides the items within each section. Items with a gray checkmark have not yet received a response, whereas those with a green checkmark have. ASSIST does not check for accuracy of information in a narrative response, so it is important to review all responses prior

to completion. **Advising Program** « Back to Career Advising Diagnostic At any time you can return Denotes an incomplete response ✓ Denotes a completed response that can be edited to the Diagnostic Summary Summary of all responses to view a different section Respond Advising program is guided by a team comprised of a variety of stakeholders or overall diagnostic Respond Advising occurs at regularly scheduled intervals throughout the school year progress. Every student has a regular and on-going advising relationship with at least one adult in the school Respond Advising program promotes systemic changes within the school Select an item by Respond The ILP is effectively implemented with input from administrators, counselors, advisors, teachers, students and parents clicking the Respond Respond Each student has goals that incorporate identified interests and career-path goals for postsecondary link. or workforce readiness identified within the ILP Respond Advising is related to academics, career, and personal/social needs Advising program sets goals and implements strategies to address achievement gaps Advising program uses data to measure the results and ensure that every student graduates college and career ready and work towards decreasing achievement gaps.

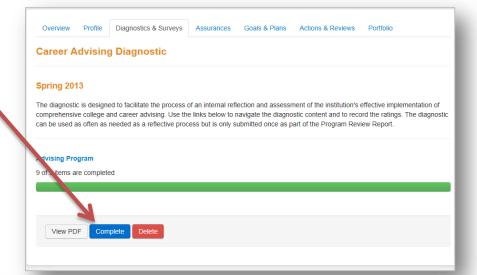


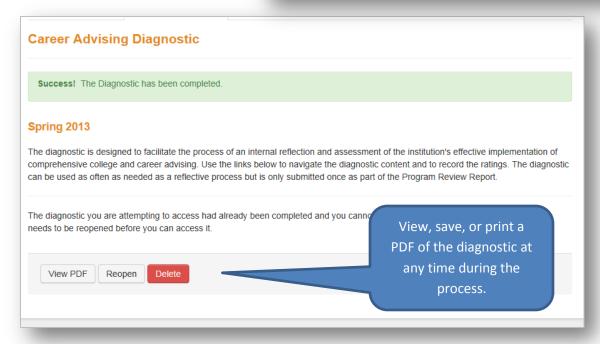
Respond to each item by selecting the rubric response that most accurately represents your institution.

Clicking *Save and Continue* will automatically take you to the next item in the diagnostic.

Note: You can return to this screen at any time to change an item response.

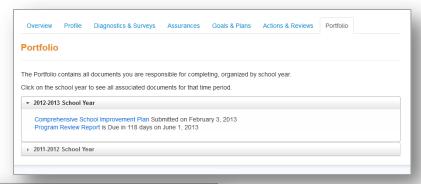
Once all questions in the diagnostic have a response, a *Complete* button will appear at the bottom of the diagnostic summary screen. Upon clicking this button, the Career Advising Diagnostic will be locked from editing and available to add to the CSIP/CDIP Report for submission.

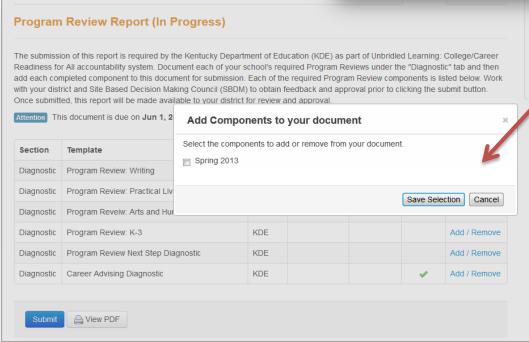




Completing and Submitting the Program Review Report

Click the *Portfolio* tab at the top of the page, and then open the Program Review Report (This report can also be viewed by clicking the task name on the *Overview* tab.) Note: The report will be located under the 2012-13 School Year.





Saving a selection will make it appear within the Components section of the report table. You can click the name to view/edit the diagnostic or assurance results.

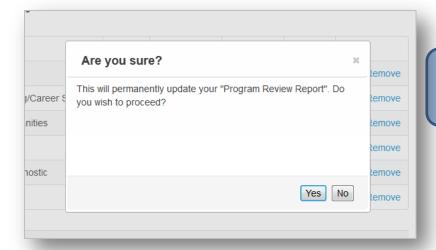


button next to each component. This will open a window that allows you to select the document you would like to attach. Select a document by checking the box and *Save* your selection.

Note: If you click the Add/Remove button prior to starting that diagnostic under the Diagnostic & Surveys tab, you will not see anything to attach. If you have created multiple diagnostics (e.g., two Executive Summaries), you will see them both in the list and select only the one you want to attach for submission.

If all questions in the component have a response, a checkmark will appear in the completed column.

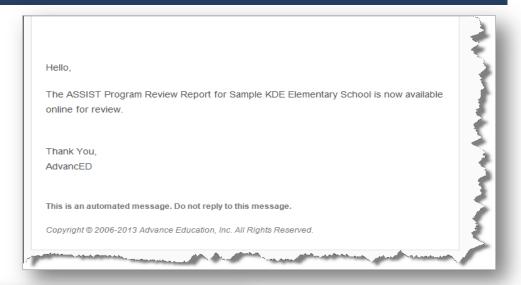
Once all required components of the document have a completed checkmark, the document can be submitted by clicking the *Submit* button at the bottom of the page.

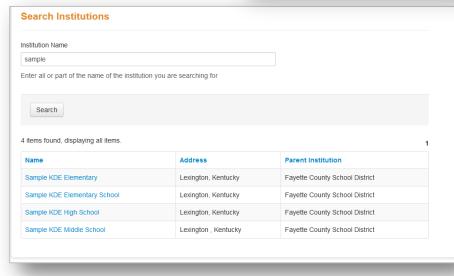


Note: You can view a PDF of the complete document at any time during the process by clicking the **View PDF** button at the bottom of the page.

District Review and Approval of Program Review Reports

Upon submission of the Program Review Report by the school, the Head of Institution and Primary Contact (as listed in the district's profile screen in ASSIST) will receive an email.

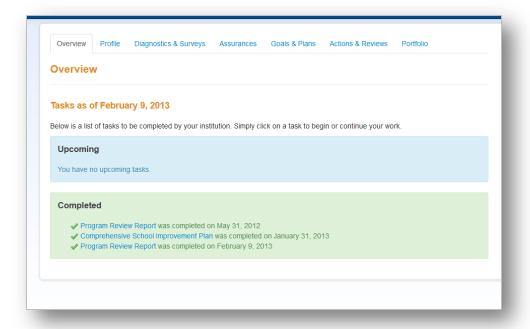




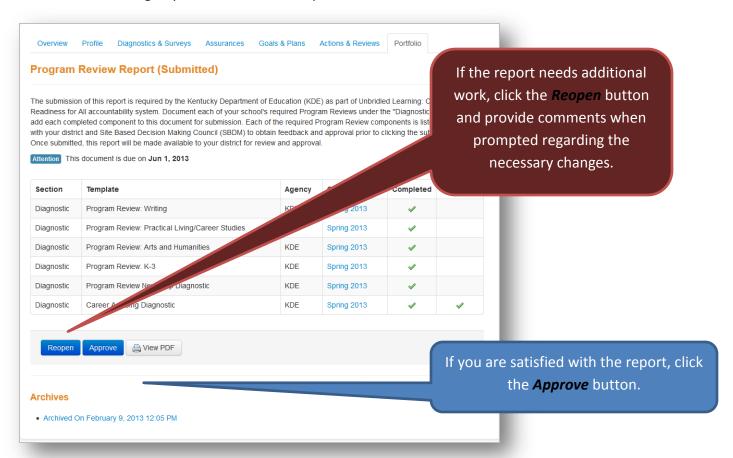
To review and approve the report, the district will need to access the school's ASSIST account. Once the district user has logged into ASSIST, district users will search for the school by entering institution name.

Select the "school" for which you want to review a report.

Upon selecting the school name you should see a task listed for that school. Click on the task name to view the submitted Program Review Report.



If the school submitted the report, there will be a link to the archived report at the bottom of the page. This link, or the View PDF button will give you access to the full report.



The school's Head of Institution, as well as the Primary Contact listed in the school's ASSIST Profile will receive an email when the report is approved or reopened.

Note: If a document has been reopened and submitted multiple times, each submission is archived along with the comment history provided by the reviewer.

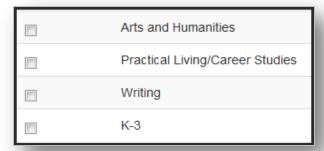
Exhibit A

Program Review Next Steps Diagnostic Content

The program reviews are intended to guide schools to systematically analyze their comprehensive school programs in the areas of Arts and Humanities, Practical Living/Career Studies, Writing, and the K-3. This final step is to analyze the findings from each program review to determine how the school will make recommendations to improve and sustain each program.

In-Depth Review

Identify the programs given an in-depth review during the school year. You may select more than one.



Arts and Humanities Program Review

- 1. Areas of Strength: What areas have been identified as strengths in the Arts & Humanities Program? What is being done to sustain these strengths?
- 2. Areas for Improvement: What areas have been identified that need to be improved in the Arts & Humanities Program?
- 3. Next steps for sustainability and improvement: What steps need to be taken to improve the Arts & Humanities program?

Practical Living and Career Studies Program Review

- 1. Areas of Strength: What areas have been identified as strengths in the Practical Living/Career Studies Program? What is being done to sustain these strengths?
- 2. Areas for Improvement: What areas have been identified that need to be improved in the Practical Living/Career Studies Program?
- 3. Next steps for sustainability and improvement: What steps need to be taken to improve the Practical Living/Career Studies program?

Writing Program Review

- 1. Areas of Strength: What areas have been identified as strengths in the Writing Program? What is being done to sustain these strengths?
- 2. Areas for Improvement: What areas have been identified that need to be improved in Writing Program?
- 3. Next steps for sustainability and improvement: What steps need to be taken to improve the Writing program?

K-3 Program Review

- 1. Areas of Strength: What areas have been identified as strengths in the K-3 Program? What is being done to sustain these strengths?
- 2. Areas for Improvement: What areas have been identified that need to be improved in K-3 Program?
- 3. Next steps for sustainability and improvement: What steps need to be taken to improve the K-3 program?

Exhibit B

Career Advising Diagnostic

Kentucky is committed to ensuring that every student reaches proficiency and graduates from high school ready for college and/or career. A strategy for comprehensive college and career advising, connecting students to adults that may advise them on college and career options is integral to reaching this goal. This diagnostic can be used by schools to determine the level of implementation of a Comprehensive College and Career Advising Program and can be used in conjunction with Program Review for Practical Living/Career Studies. A Comprehensive College and Career Advising Program should: 1.Be School-Wide; 2.Implement or Employ the Individual Learning Plan (ILP) as the core component of college and career advising and exploration; 3.Unite students, staff, parents, the community, businesses, and higher education; and 4.Aim to reduce dropout rates, raises graduation rates, and helps pave the way for students to seek post-secondary pursuits after high school (Hodges, 2010; Schanfield, 2010).

To be most effective schools should create a School Counseling Program Advisory Council, as recommended by the American School Counselor Association National Model (3rd ed.) (ASCA, 2012). In order to effectively meet the needs of all students the Advisory Council should be diverse and consist of representatives from school staff, students, parents, and the community. The involvement of many stakeholders ensures program continuity and broadens the scope of content knowledge, skill development, and the formation of habits necessary for students to be successful in adulthood. Role and Responsibilities of a School Counsel Program Advisory Council The Advisory Council helps develop the Comprehensive College and Career Advising plan, which includes interventions that target the unique academic, career and personal/social needs of students as identified through needs assessments, grades, ILP reporting, EPAS scores, Student Gallup Poll results, and other school related data. (3rd ed.) (ASCA, 2012).

Evidence-based monitoring is the responsibility of the school counseling program advisory council to ensure that relevant objectives are met and reached. Revisions of the program are intentional, timely and responsive to student and school needs. Data analysis is used to set priorities for services to address academics, behavior, attendance, retention, and acceleration needs. Further, as described by ASCA (http://www.ascanationalmodel.org/content.asp?contentid=21), data are used "to measure the results of the program as well as to promote systemic changes within the school system so every student graduates college- and career-ready" (2012).

The School Counseling Program Advisory Council should prioritize services that address the school's Comprehensive Improvement Plan concerning college and career readiness, proficiency for all students and eliminating achievement gaps. In addition to including ALL students, the advising program must be scheduled to occur at regular intervals throughout the school year and be structured to include frequent updating of student ILPs. Imbedding the ILP into the advising system is critical to: supporting students to set and meet goals, helping teachers building relationships with students, and empowering schools to meet the needs of all students. References: American School Counselor Association National Model (3 ed.). (2012). Alexandria, VA: American School Counseling Association.

What is my school's progress?	Apprentice	Proficient	Distinguished
Advising program is guided by a team comprised of a variety of stakeholders.	No team in place or membership is limited to school staff.	Team includes school staff and at least 2 members from the following groups: parents, students,	Team includes school staff, students, parents, business/community and higher education.

		business/community, higher education.	
Advising occurs at regularly scheduled intervals throughout the school year.	No structured advising program is in place.	Every student participates in advising one time per month.	Every student participates in advising one time per week.
Every student has a regular and on-going advising relationship with at least one adult in the school building.	Students are assigned to advisors for scheduling purposes only.	Targeted students are assigned to an advisor who has regular contact and is familiar with the student's grades, co-curricular activities and career goals.	Every student is assigned to an advisor who has regular contact and is familiar with the student's grades, co- curricular activities and career goals.
Advising program promotes systemic changes within the school.	The advising program focuses primarily on crisis situations and academics.	The advising program is designed to address the academic needs of all students and provide guidance to students who self-identify a personal/social need.	The advising program services are prioritized through alignment with the school's Comprehensive Improvement Plan.
The ILP is effectively implemented with input from administrators, counselors, advisors, teachers, students and parents.	No leadership support	Leadership support is limited to school counselors and teachers	Leadership supports the ILP by including advisors, counselors, teachers, students.
	School does not integrate the ILP into classroom instruction.	School integrates the ILP in 1-3 content areas as a teaching tool.	ILP guidance is provided to parents at least twice each year through newsletters, meetings, emails and phone calls.
	School Based Decision- Making Council policy does not address ILP implementation Data is not collected or analyzed.	School- Based Decision Making Council adopts a policy for ILP implementation including involving parents in ILP review Data is collected but not analyzed; no clearly defined criteria are followed.	School integrates the ILP across 3-5 content areas as a teaching tool. School- Based Decision Making Council adopts a policy for ILP implementation including on-going communication with parents regarding student progress and annual ILP review. Data with clearly defined criteria on student feedback and parent access to the ILP is collected and analyzed to inform improvement plans. Data is used to design and implement the master schedule.

Each student has goals that incorporate identified interests and career-path goals for postsecondary or workforce readiness identified within the ILP.	No advising program exists.	School & staff have a limited advising program but does not ensure every student has a meaningful relationship with at least one adult who serves as a resource as the student completes the ILP.	School & staff have established an advising program that ensures every student has a meaningful relationship with at least one adult who serves as a resource as the student completes the ILP.
	Little or no access to accelerated learning opportunities that are aligned with students' ILPs.	Some students have access to accelerated learning opportunities that are aligned with their ILPs.	Every student has access to accelerated learning opportunities that are aligned with their ILP.
Advising is related to academics, career, and personal/ social needs.	Advising is limited to academic needs.	Advising includes academics and college/career planning but does not address personal/social needs	Every student participates in on-going advising focused on academics, careers and personal/social needs.
Advising program sets goals and implements strategies that to address achievement gaps.	Achievement gaps are not addressed through the advising program.	The school implements school-wide efforts to encourage all students to reach proficiency.	The school utilizes the Persistence to Graduation Tool (PtGT) to identify students not on track to graduate. Off-track students are provided intensive services.
Advising program uses data to measure the results and ensure that every student graduates college and career ready and work towards decreasing achievement gaps.	No data is used in program planning or monitoring.	Some data is used to determine advising needs, but is not linked to school improvement.	Evidence-based monitoring is the responsibility of the advising council. Data use includes but is not limited to grades, attendance, behavior, EPAS scores, EOC scores, AP scores and ILP reports. Revisions to the program are linked to data and are intentional, timely and responsive to student and school needs.